



County of Fresno

COUNTY CLERK/REGISTRAR OF VOTERS
BRANDI L. ORTH

Fresno County VAAC Meeting Minutes Thursday, 03/28/2019 11:00 AM

Location:

Resources for Independence Central Valley Conference Room
2940 N. Fresno St. Fresno, CA 93703

The Meeting was called to order at 11:00 AM with the following members present: Tommy Tahami, Matthew Lenhart, Sarah Harris, Jose Luis Villaneuva, Dennis Jeppson, Charity Tokash, Marilu Jimenez, Brandi Orth, Elisia White, Chris Anderson, Terrence Lorenzo Warren Glover Sr., Yolanda Franklin, Shannon Mulhall, Vidal Media, Mark Oda, Christina Fletes, Raul Macias, Mike Bustamante, Katie Moua, Douglas Loera, Russell, Chappell, Susan Coulter, and Lisa Moreno

After introductions were made, a review of the minutes from the previous VAAC meeting on February 26, 2019 was completed. A motion was brought forward to accept the minutes, seconded, and accepted by the committee.

Follow-up regarding VCA Model for Fresno County from March 12th, 2019 Board Meeting

Brandi began the topic stating that it is now official that Fresno County will be moving forward with switching from the Polling Place model used in past elections, to the Voter's Choice Act model starting with the March 2020 election and forward. While the switch over will be a little more expensive, the new model will better serve the voters of Fresno County. There will be approximately 50 Voting Assistance Centers across the County, 10 open for 11 days and another 40 open for 4 days. Each Vote Center will have a minimum of 3 of the Accessible Voting Machines available to all voters.

On top of this, the Elections Department is currently underway in the selection of the locations which will serve the voters as a Vote Center. There is an additional Advisory Committee meeting the same day, at 3:00 PM and 6:00 PM. Brandi asked that any members of the VAAC that can attend would be greatly appreciated. In addition to the committees, the Elections Department will also begin conducting Accessibility Surveys to verify that all of the Vote Centers will be fully accessible, have access to bus routes and pedestrian access, and will have accessible parking

Voting Equipment Selection

Along with the change going forward with the VCA model, Brandi also discussed how Fresno County Elections will be buying new equipment this year. While the change to the VCA model was a factor in our switch over, the elections department is required to obtain new equipment this year due to the Secretary of State de-certifying the voting equipment that the Elections department currently uses, purchased 20 years ago. The County is currently in negotiations with the vendor that has been selected, Dominion Voting Systems, and will try to get a demo of the equipment to the Committee as soon as they are available. New ballot tabulators will also be included in the purchase order, which will be available at each of the Vote Centers.

As well as the new voting equipment, the topic of the Remote Accessible Vote-by-Mail (RAVBM) system was discussed. Upon request from the voter to the Elections office, a voter will be given a link through email or over the phone to access a ballot online. The voter will be able to view their ballot with their own readers, print it out and mark it. The vendor that is currently in place for a similar system with Military Overseas (UOCAVA) Voters is Democracy Live. Sarah pointed out that with she has demoed the Democracy Live RAVBM system before and the system does allow you to mark the ballot before printing it out. Once the ballot is received in the mail, the Elections office would then duplicate that to a live ballot to be read by the ballot tabulators in house. It was made clear that this is not online voting, but that a voter would need to send it into our office to be counted.

Establishment of Co-chairs

After further discussion with the committee, Sarah Harris and Charity Tokash were both nominated as co-chairs. This will include assisting the County Elections staff with establishing meeting dates, topics, and ideas for outreach in the community to increase membership in the committee. The term will be for 1 year, at least until the March 2020 election. Matthew Lenhart also showed interesting in serving as a chair, and it was suggested that perhaps he can be mentored into the role in the future.

Meeting schedule going forward

As the meeting room was full of people, the committee discussed possibly using a bigger room. Susan Coulter agreed to help with using the Community Room over at the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Service Center at Fresno and Barstow for the next meeting. As Fresno County will be going to the VCA Model, it was agreed that the committee will meet every other month going forward, at least until the March 2020 election. While the committee discussed that the meeting should be in early May, a date was not confirmed.

Other comments from Committee

The committee discussed further outreach in the community. Brandi asked for contacts with various organization through the next year, so that the Elections office can meet with and/or present to a group at their weekly/monthly/quarterly meetings. It was also suggested the idea of doing a mock Vote Center to present to some of the community. This would allow the Elections office to get a better understanding of the issues that matter to people of various disabilities. As the disability community is very diverse, a better understanding of the specific issues that can be addressed inside of the Vote Centers will be important going forward.

Meeting was adjourned at 11:50 AM

Next meeting is scheduled for May 9th, 2019 at 11:00 Am at the Elections Warehouse Training Facility on 4525 E Hamilton Ave. Fresno, CA 93702